

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

ACDA-19 RSR-01 /146 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ ARN: EPDJEREJIAN

EXT 21019 5/10/73

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NEA/ IAI: HSTACKHOUSE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

USINT ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

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TAGS: PFOR, LE
SUBJ: ISRAELI PRESS REPORT

REF: BEIRUT 5319

1. LEBANESE AMBASSADOR KABBANI INFORMED DEPARTMENT MAY 10 THAT GOL HAS PRESS REPORT FROM ISRAELI NEWSPAPER MAARIV WRITTEN BY PHILLIP BEN (MAARIV CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK) ALLEGING THAT LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED U. S. AND FRANCE TO INTERVENE MILITARILY IN LEBANON. KABBANI SAID THIS ISRAELI PRESS REPORT CAN CAUSE GOL CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES NOT ONLY IN LEBANON BUT IN ARAB WORLD AND CAN INFLAME PUBLIC OPINION AND DISRUPT GOL' S EFFORTS TO CALM PRESENT SITUATION.

2. KABBANI SAID LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL ISSUE STATEMENT: A) THAT ISRAELI PRESS REPORT IS UNTRUE AND WITHOUT ANY FOUNDATION; B) THAT ARTICLE IS PART OF CAMPAIGN OF CONFUSION WHICH WORLD ZIONISM HAS EMBARKED ON; AND C) WILL APPEAL TO LEBANESE CITIZENS NOT TO LISTEN TO SUCH RUMORS.

3. AMBASSADOR KABBANI SAID HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO ASK USG, IF APPROPRIATE, TO ISSUE STATEMENT CATEGORICALLY DENYING THIS ISRAELI PRESS REPORT. KABBANI SAID GOL WAS MAKING SIMILAR REQUEST TO FRENCH GOVERNMENT FOR ISSUANCE OF DENIAL.

4. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT MAY 10 PRESS BRIEFING FLATLY DENIED REPORTS THAT USG HAS BEEN ASKED BY LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE MILITARILY IN LEBANON. TEXT OF SPOKESMAN' S REMARKS FOLLOWS BY SEPTEL. ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JIDDA
RABAT

TEL AVIV
TUNIS
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